(a) whether it is a fact that the norms for admission to IITs have been changed and admission would be restricted to only first divisioners in senior secondary examinations;

(b) if so, the deails thereof;

(c) whether there were widespread protests against the new norms; and

(d) the demands of the agitators and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On the recommendations of the Special Task Force constituted by the Directors of IITs, norms for admission to IITs have been changed to reduce the examination stress on students, to give due weightage to the Board results and to check the proliferation of coaching institutions.

It has been decided that only those students who get 60% or more marks in class XIIth will be eligible for admission to IITs, a student can have only two attempts to write JEE with effect from 2006, one in the year in which he or she passes the XIIth Standard Examination and/or in the following year. The candidates who join any of the IITs, IT-BHU, Varanasi and ISM Dhanbad through JEE 2006 will not be permitted to appear in JEE in future.

(c) and (d) Some representations were received against the new norms. Joint Admission Board, therefore, in its meeting held on 17th September, 2005 in Kolkata considered them and decided that candidates, who have passed their qualifying examination in 2005 or earlier, will be permitted to appear in JEE 2006, as a last chance, irrespective of the marks secured or the number of earlier attempts at JEE subject to their satisfying the age limit.

Joint Entrance Examination

499. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Joint Admission Board (JAB) of the IITs announced a new format of the Joint Entrance Examination to be held in 2006;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the JAB has also decided that the students would be given only two attempts to appear in JEE and to stop shifting from one IIT to another;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reasons for this drastic changes and how this move would help in checking proliferation of the coaching institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. On the recommendations of the Special Task Force constituted by the Directors of IITs, norms for admission to IITs have been changed by the Joint Admission Board of the IITs. It has been decided that only those students who get 60% or more marks at the class XIIth will be eligible for admission to the IITs. A student can have only two attempts to appear in JEE with effect from 2006, in the year in which he or she passes the XIIth standard examination and/or in the following year. Candidates, who have passed their qualifying examination in 2005 or earlier, will be permitted to appear in JEE 2006, as a last chance, irrespective of the marks secured in class XIIth or the number of earlier attempts at JEE subject to their satisfying the age limit. Candidates who join any of the IITs, IT-BHU, Varanasi and ISM Dhanbad through JEE 2006 will not be permitted to appear in JEE in future.

These reforms simplify the Joint Entrance Exam by doing away with the screening test and also give due weightage to the Board results. This is likely to reduce the examination stress on the students and check the proliferation of coaching institutes.

Harassment of women at work place

500. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the non-implementation of the guidelines of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's Vishaka Judgement on "Sexual Harassment at the Work Place" by various Central Government Institutions;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to implement the guidelines;